

duce British colonisation of South Africa aroused considerable ill-feeling in Australia and Canada, and the present boom of Canadian development which draws into that country the lion's share of our migrating population and capital evidently militates against the development of Australia.

These several countries are naturally concerned far more deeply about their own prosperity than about that of other sections of the Empire. At present, however, the jealousy with which Australia eyes the advance of Canada cannot beget a sense of grievance either against the sister Dominion or against the Motherland, for Great Britain does not subsidise Canadian immigration or investments at the expense of Australia. If, however, the interests of the new British protective system, or the claim of a heavy Canadian preference, or the Imperial importance of establishing securely the great new grain route from the Northwest, were to involve the granting of a larger or more advantageous preference to Canada than to Australia or New Zealand, a sense of grievance would inevitably be generated in the latter. Each "injured" Colony would be compelled by the clamour of its aggrieved interests to demand some readjustment of Imperial preference, while in the meantime the trade relations between the competing Colonies would suffer.

An Imperial preferential system, based, as it must be, upon a delicate adjustment of more or less conflicting interests, must be subject to frequent revision with infinite bargaining. Each party must carefully scrutinise each charge, so as to see that the new tariff does not go against it, and that either the Mother Country or one of its sisters does not gain at its expense. So likewise the several members of the Canadian, Australian, and South African group will be constantly liable to quarrel among themselves over the share of the British preference which falls to them respectively, the disruptive principle extending thus not only to the Colonial groups but to the internal relations within each group.

Hitherto there has never been close scrutiny into the business aspect of our relations with the several